

[Professor Nayar's note amplifies the description given by Boulenger in the volume on Reptilia (*Fauna of British India*) particularly in reference to colouration. The specimen referred to was submitted to Dr. Malcolm Smith at the British Museum, who identified it as *Rhacophorus malabaricus* he writes: 'some of the differences quoted by Prof. Nair are not apparent to me and others can be accounted for by individual variation. The only marked difference is the shape of the snout, but it rather looks as if your specimen had banged its nose at some time and spoilt its shape. The difference between the size of the digital discs of the fingers and toe is correct as stated by Prof. Nayar and Boulenger has evidently overlooked this point'. As regards the question of injury to the snout, Prof. Nair has since obtained a second specimen in which the snout is exactly as in the first, i.e., rounded and not sub-acuminate and from which he concludes that the difference in shape indicated by him could not have been due to an accident as suggested by Dr. Malcolm Smith. The second specimen has also been examined by Dr. Malcolm Smith. He writes: 'The snout is certainly flatter than in specimens here, but the tip of the snout in *Rhacophorus* is subject to the same variation as in *Ixalus* and depends, I believe, upon how much of it is absorbed during metamorphosis.

That the Green Tree Frog (*R. malabaricus*) and *R. nigropalmatus* the 'Flying Frog' of Borneo alluded to by Wallace can 'fly' or rather plane, is a well established fact now and probably the same power is given to all the species of *Rhacophorus* with broadly webbed digits. If another specimen can be collected we would suggest that one be allowed to jump from a considerable height—the top of a tree out in the open, if several people are below to catch it again it can hardly escape. EDS.]

XVIII.—ENCOUNTER WITH A HAMADRYAD (*NAIA BUNGARUS*).

On October 1, 1930, I accompanied my clerk to inspect teak tree stumps in Compt. 77, Sinthe Reserve, Yamethin District, Burma. About 8 o'clock in the morning I arrived at a stump which was situated 20 ft. high on the side of a ravine. The top branches of a teak tree had fallen into the ravine and were resting about 3 ft. above the actual bed which was covered with firm but damp sand. Opposite me as I was standing on the top branches was a still smaller ravine, running at almost right angles to the one I was standing in. This smaller ravine went up at a steep angle and had a bed, also, of firm damp sand.

As I found everything in order, I told my clerk to go and hammer up the stump, which was about 40 ft. away from and above me, with my hammer. While this was being done I saw a large snake—about six inches in girth—come down the bed of the little ravine opposite me. At first it did not see me but when it did so, it stopped immediately about 4 yards from me. For about 5 minutes it watched me intently although I had made no movement. At last tiring of this I

told my clerk, who was waiting at the stump for me to move, that there was a large snake in the small ravine and that he was to throw a piece of rock at it. However, as he could not see the snake he threw the piece of rock to me which I picked up. All the time the snake watched me very intently but made no movement whatsoever, its head being an inch off the ground. I, then, threw the piece of rock which, if the snake had not recoiled, would have hit it fair and square. The snake next rose up—its head being some 2 ft. from the ground and its neck distended to about 4 inches in breadth. With a loud hiss, it rapidly advanced towards me. Fortunately, I had with me a thick cane tipped with steel and, as it came at me with extraordinary rapidity, I aimed a blow at its head but missed and caught it a hard blow on the body some 3 ft. behind the head. This caused it to writhe in agony and allowed me to continue to shower blows on it. The snake recoiled and I found time to notice that I had lost six inches off my stick. Then I heard a loud hiss and the snake again came for me. I showered blows on it until my stick broke in 3 pieces leaving about 14 inches in my hand. As I had no stick I turned and ran up the bank. The snake also turned and followed me for about 10 yards. Fortunately I had so injured it that it could only travel slowly and I was able to pick up a bamboo and kill it outright.

The snake measured 8 ft. 5 inches in length and was marked by bands at every 2 inches. Its general colour was olive green—the bands being a little lighter than the rest of the body. They were by no means distinctive. Very unfortunately I was uninterested at the time and kept no records of it. The Burmans called it 'Nan-than-dwin' or, according to the Burmese Dictionary a 'belted' hamadryad.

PYINMANA,

BURMA,

November, 1930.

P. A. W. HOWE.

XIX.—WEIGHING FISH WITH TWO OR MORE SCALES.

In reply to Capt. Macgregor's interesting account in Vol. XXXIV, No. 3 of the 15th November, I produce for him, and any others, who may care to benefit from it, Thomas's method of weighing fish under similar circumstances from his *Rod in India*, page 38, para. 4.

'When I bought my fishing tackle I thought a spring-balance weighing up to thirty-two pounds was big enough for any man. But one fine day I had the misfortune to catch a Mahseer well over that weight and, of course, I was particularly anxious to know its exact weight. I had in camp two spring-balances, weighing respectively up to twenty-eight pounds and thirty-two pounds. I passed a stout cord through the rings of the two, and suspended them from a bough; then a cord attached to the fish and passed over the two hooks, suspended the fish simultaneously from them both. Reading of the weight indicated by the two instruments and adding them